

Effective May 23, 2015.

**CONTINUATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE TEXAS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT COUNCIL, INCLUDING
ASSUMPTION OF THE DUTIES OF THE TEXAS SKILL
STANDARDS BOARD**

CHAPTER 97

H.B. No. 1606

AN ACT

relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce Investment Council, including assumption of the duties of the Texas Skill Standards Board.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 2308.005, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2308.005. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. The Texas Workforce Investment Council is subject to Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the council is abolished September 1, 2027 [2015]. *The council shall be reviewed during the period in which the Texas Workforce Commission is reviewed.*

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2308.109 to read as follows:

Sec. 2308.109. DUTY TO DEVELOP SKILL STANDARDS. (a) The council shall provide advice to the governor and the legislature on the development of a statewide system of industry-defined and industry-recognized skill standards and credentials for all major skilled occupations that:

- (1) provide strong employment and earnings opportunities in this state; and*
- (2) require less than a baccalaureate degree.*

(b) The council shall:

(1) validate and recognize nationally established skill standards to guide curriculum development, training, assessment, and certification of workforce skills;

(2) convene industry groups to develop skill standards and certification procedures for industries and occupations in which standards have not been established or adopted and recognize the skill standards and certification procedures;

(3) review the standards developed by other states and foreign countries and enter into agreements for mutual recognition of standards and credentials to enhance portability of skills; and

(4) promote the use of standards and credentials among employers.

(c) The council shall:

(1) report on the council's duties under this section to the governor; and

(2) provide annual reports on the council's duties under this section to the governor, the division, and the legislature.

SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is repealed.

SECTION 4. The Texas Skill Standards Board is abolished. All powers and duties of the Texas Skill Standards Board are transferred to the Texas Workforce Investment Council.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 9, 2015: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 12, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved May 23, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**CONTINUATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S
COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

CHAPTER 98

H.B. No. 1678

AN ACT

relating to the continuation and functions of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 115.005, Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 115.005. SUNSET PROVISION. The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities is subject to Chapter 325, Government Code (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that chapter, the committee is abolished and this chapter expires September 1, 2027 [2015].

SECTION 2. Section 115.009, Human Resources Code, as amended by S.B. No. 219, Acts of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 115.009. FUNCTIONS. The committee shall:

(1) serve as a central source of information and education on the abilities, rights, problems, and needs of persons with disabilities and, as necessary, issue reports;

(2) provide information to and advise the governor and the governor's staff on matters relating to the full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life;

(3) before the end of each even-numbered year, submit to the governor and to the legislature a report that includes[:

~~[(A) the status of the state's compliance with federal and state laws pertaining to rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities and recommendations to achieve further compliance, if necessary;~~

~~[(B) a long-range state plan for persons with disabilities and recommendations to implement that plan; and~~

~~[(C)] any recommended changes in state laws relating to persons with disabilities;~~

(4) serve as the state's liaison agency in working with the *Office of Disability* [President's Committee on] *Employment Policy* [of Persons with Disabilities] and other entities involved in activities or concerns affecting persons with disabilities;

(5) develop and work with a statewide network of volunteer community-level committees to promote dissemination of information about and implementation of federal and state laws addressing rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities;

(6) ~~[evaluate the state's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.) and other federal and state statutes relating to rights and opportunities for persons with disabilities;~~

~~[(7)]~~ provide information and technical assistance to public and private agencies and businesses to promote and facilitate implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.) and other federal and state statutes relating to rights and opportunities of persons with disabilities;

(7) ~~[(8) collect and evaluate data on employment of persons with disabilities by state agencies;~~

~~[(9)]~~ work with legislative committees and with state agencies on the development of laws and policies that affect persons with disabilities;